

# **Minutes of the Public Meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

Present: Ernest A. Heller, Chair  
Stephen K. Hess, Vice-Chair  
Deborah L. Lundahl, Commission Member  
Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Commission Member  
Deidre R. Davidson, Commission Member  
Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, Commission Member  
M. Shane Canfield, Commission Member

James Stanker, Alternate Commission Member

Absent: None

Secretary: Andrew J. Ford, Assistant County Attorney

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## **Agenda:**

1. Approval of the minutes from September 9, 2020 meeting.
2. Distribution of the County Executive's Public Ethics Report for July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.
3. Vote to conduct an administrative function meeting to discuss a new complaints.

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The Frederick County Ethics Commission meeting started at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, via WebEx.

### **1. Agenda and Minutes.**

**MOTION:** Rev. Jones moved approve the Agenda. Shane Canfield seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The draft minutes from the September 9, 2020 public meeting were emailed to the members before the meeting. Mr. Ford noted that the draft incorrectly identified the day as Monday instead of Wednesday.

**MOTION:** Dr. Johnson-Winegar made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected. Rev. Jones seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**2. Distribution of the County Executive's Public Ethics Report for July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.**

**MOTION:** Ms. Lundahl moved to accept the Public Ethics Report. Ms. Canfield seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**3. Administrative Function.**

The Commission recently received an ethics complaint against a County official. The Commission discussed whether it should conduct an administrative function meeting to discuss the complaint.

**MOTION:** Ms. Davidson made a motion to hold an administrative function meeting. Rev. Jones seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**Required information regarding the administrative function meeting** – The Commission ended the WebEx broadcast and after a break, reconvened via Microsoft Teams. The Commission began its administrative function meeting at approximately 7:15 on March 10, 2021, via Teams. Present for the meeting were Mr. Heller, Mr. Hess, Dr. Johnson-Winegar, Rev. Jones, Ms. Lundahl, Ms. Davidson, Mr. Canfield, Mr. Stanker and Mr. Ford.

The Commission discussed whether the facts alleged in the complaint, if true, would constitute a violation of the Ethics Law by the County official named in the complaint. By consensus, the members agreed that the facts alleged in the complaint did not state a violation of the Ethics Law. The members asked Mr. Ford to draft the necessary dismissal notice.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Andrew J. Ford  
Assistant County Attorney